

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 ACDA-10

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R 271146Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 846

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 74

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION THREATENS RE-ESTABLISH NO-GO
AREAS

REF: BELFAST 71

1. SPOKESMEN FOR THE LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) ANNOUNCED AFTERNOON FEB. 26 THAT AS OF 2400 THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) WOULD BE UNWELCOME IN LOYALIST AREAS OF PROVINCE AND THAT UDA WOULD MOUNT PATROLS TO ASSURE MAINTENANCE LAW AND ORDER. IN ULSTER BBC TELEVISION INTERVIEW FEB. 26 UDA SPOKESMEN SMYTH AND MC VEAGH SAID ACTION TAKEN RELUCTANTLY BECAUSE (A) RUC COULD NOT RPT NOT MOVE FREELY IN SOME OTHER PARTS PROVINCE (B) NORTHERN IRELAND GOVERNMENT HAD CONCEDED POLICING ROLE THESE PARTS TO PROVISIONAL IRA TO OBTAIN CEASEFIRE (C) THESE NEGOTIATIONS A VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES, (D) PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN NOW HAD DE JURE AS WELL AS DE FACTO RIGHT BAR RUC FROM REPUBLICAN AREAS AND (E) SINN FEIN POLICING ONLY FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHMENT STATELETS AND EVENTUALLY PROVISIONAL IRA WOULD BE DOMINANT VOICE IN POLICING DECISIONS NORTHERN IRELAND.

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2. UNNAMED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MET WITH UDA LEADERS BELFAST

FROM LATE EVENING FEB. 26 UNTIL WELL AFTER MIDNIGHT
IN ATTEMPT HALT ESCALATION OF TENSION. THEY APPARENTLY ENJOYED
SOME TEMPORARY SUCCESS SINCE RUC CONTINUED PATROL TOUGH
PROTESTANT NEIGHBORHOODS SUCH AS SHANKILL AND SANDY ROW THROUGH
NIGHT WITHOUT REPORTING ANY CONFRONTATION WITH UDA.

3. POLITICIANS EVIDENTLY TAKE BY SURPRISE BY UDA ANNOUNCEMENT
AND WHILE VANGUARD LEADER WILLIAM CRAIG AND OFFICIAL UNIONIST
JOHN TAYLOR HESITATED TAKE STAND, OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS
CONDEMNED ALL PRIVATE POLICING INITIATIVES. THOSE CRITICAL
INCLUDED REV. WILLIAM BEATTIE DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST, THOMAS
PASSMORE BELFAST ORANGE ORDER AND PADDY DEVLIN FOR SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY. SINN FEIN MP MAIRE DRUMM ATTEMPTED
CLARIFY COMMUNITY POLICING ROLE (REFTEL) WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY
GROUPS SUCH AS TENANT ASSOCIATIONS NOT RPT NOT BY PROVISIONAL
SINN FEIN. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED HOWEVER THAT SHE HAD NOT RPT NOT
SEEN AN PHOBLACT ARTICLE. INCIDENTALLY SEAMUS LOUGHRAN STILL
UNACCOUNTABLY ABSENT (BELFAST 68).

4. IN ADDITION TO STATED REASONS FOR UDA ACCOUNCEMENT CONGEN
SEES AT LEAST THREE OTHER MOTIVES: (A) UDA NEEDS RESUME ACTIVE
PARTISAN ROLE FIRST KEEP ITS MEMBERS OUT OF MISCHIEF AND SECOND
RESTORE ITS IMAGE WHICH BEING TARNISHED BY CHARGES OF GANGSTERISM,
(B) UDA RESENTFUL OVER FACT RUC OPERATING FREELY IN LOYALIST AREAS
HAS BEEN ABLE OBTAIN EVIDENCE LEADING TO SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION
AND LONG SENTENCES LOYALIST PARAMILITARIES WHILE MANY REPUBLICANS
APPREHENDED BY ARMY HAVE ONLY BEEN INTERNED AND CAN LOOK FORWARD
TO EARLY RELEASES, (C) UDA BELIEVES THEIR ESTABLISHMENT LOYALIST
NO-GO AREAS 1972 LED TO OPERATION MOTORMAN AND CONSEQUENT RELATIVE
FREEDOM ACCESS AUTHORITIES TO REPUBLICAN NO-GO AREAS. UDA HOPES
REPEAT THIS ACHIEVEMENT.
SPICER

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